Numerous experiments have been conducted to find out more about the types of medication used to treat schizophrenia. Thanks to all of this research, we now know which medication works best at eliminating the symptoms of schizophrenia. There is, however, always more research taking place on even more medications to try to make them even better. Now instead of creating new types of medications, researchers are improving the medicine they have now. The type of research that takes place ranges from knowing what two medications work best together, to knowing which type of medicine works best for each symptom. Based off of all this research, some researchers have suggested that patients, who take their medications continuously, on a normal basis, have a more functional, long-term, outcome in the treatment of schizophrenia.

The authors, Ascher-Svanum H, Faries DE, Zhu B, Ernst FR, Swartz MS, and Swanson JW, conducted much of the research and their findings can be read in the article *Medication adherence and long-term functional outcomes in the treatment of schizophrenia in usual care.* In this article an experiment was conducted that followed many people suffering from schizophrenia. Each patient was followed over a three year period of time, and was checked on once every six months. At each check-in the patient was assessed for how well they adhered to the routine of their medications and also for how well their symptoms were improving. The final results proved that patients who did not adhere to their medication had poorer functional outcomes than those who did adhere. Furthermore, those who did not adhere had a greater risk of psychiatric hospitalizations, arrests, violence, poorer mental functioning, poorer life satisfaction, and more alcohol-related problems. While this research is needed, and very important, there is still room for even more research on this topic.

This research may be correct, but it does not take into account other treatment types to go along with the use of medication. Other types of treatment include education, modeling, limit setting, and reality testing, all with the help of a therapist or in a small group setting. Schizophrenics usually have a difficult time performing simply daily skills that a therapist needs to help them relearn. While a medication can eliminate a hallucination, it cannot teach a person how to take care of themselves. Small group sessions can be especially helpful because it allows them participants to relearn their correct social roles and interactions. Medication is very effective at treating the symptoms of schizophrenia, but there are other issues with the disorder that need to be resolved that only psychotherapy can do. More research needs to be focused on psychotherapy along with the use of medication to treat schizophrenia.